



**Morning Alert - Wednesday, September 21, 2016**

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## **HEADLINES**

### **Morning news**

NHK, NTV, and Fuji TV gave top play to reports on damage caused by Typhoon Malakas, which has turned into a tropical cyclone and is moving up the Pacific coast. TBS and TV Asahi led with reports that cyanogen compound exceeding the environmental standard was detected in pools of water found underneath the buildings of the new fish market in Toyosu.

Top stories in national dailies included a cabinet meeting today to discuss what to do with the Monju fast-breeder reactor (Asahi, Mainichi); a GOJ plan to draw up a new roadmap for an alternative to Monju based on a joint study with France (Yomiuri); the first increase in nine years in Japan's commercial land values ([Nikkei](#)); and Prime Minister Abe's meeting with Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton (Sankei).

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Japan, Britain to cooperate on imposing new UN sanctions on North Korea**

Most papers reported on Prime Minister Abe's meeting with his British counterpart May in New York on Tuesday, during which the two leaders agreed to cooperate closely on adopting a new sanctions resolution on North Korea at the UN Security Council in response to Pyongyang's fifth nuclear test earlier this month. They also confirmed the importance of the rule of law in the South China Sea. Concerning Brexit, Abe requested that Britain ensure that Japanese investors can continue to do business in the nation even after it leaves the EU.

### **Japan agrees to write off Cuba's debt**

Most papers wrote that ahead of Prime Minister Abe's visit to Cuba on Sept. 22, the governments of Japan and Cuba signed a deal on Monday for Japan to gradually write off 119.7 billion yen of Cuba's debt, which is two-thirds of the nation's total debt to Japan. Tokyo hopes the debt relief will help promote economic ties with Havana. Japan also hopes that Cuba, which has close relations with North Korea, will help resolve the abduction issue and stop the DPRK's nuclear and missile development.

### **Japan urges Ukraine to steadily implement ceasefire accord in Crimea**

Nikkei wrote that Prime Minister Abe urged Ukrainian President Poroshenko to steadily implement the agreement on the ceasefire in Crimea during their talks in New York on Tuesday. Abe conveyed Japan's plan to carry through with its pledge of \$1.85 billion in aid for the nation. Given that both Japan and Ukraine are currently serving as nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council, the two leaders confirmed close coordination toward adopting a new Security Council resolution on North Korea.

### **Aung San Suu Kyi plans to visit Japan in November**

Tokyo Shimbun ran a Kyodo story from Yangon saying that it learned from a source connected to the Myanmar government that final arrangements are being made by Myanmar and Japan for State Counselor and Foreign Minister Aung San Suu Kyi to visit Japan in November. Aung San Suu Kyi will probably seek Japan's assistance for infrastructure development in Myanmar and Japanese firms' investment in the nation during her meetings with Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida.

### **Japan pledges \$2.8 billion in aid for refugees**

Several papers wrote that Prime Minister Abe on Monday pledged \$2.8 billion in aid for refugees and migrants over the next three years at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants on Monday. Yomiuri wrote that although the summit adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which expresses the political will of world leaders to save lives, protect rights, and share responsibility on a global scale, nations hosting Syrian refugees, such as Lebanon and Jordan, expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of support from the international community.

## **SCIENCE**

### **GOJ to submit bill for ratifying Paris climate change accord**

Mainichi wrote that the GOJ has decided to submit a bill to ratify the Paris Agreement on climate change to the extraordinary Diet session beginning on Sept. 26. The endorsement of Japan, which emits 3.8% of the world's global greenhouse gas emissions, could increase the prospects of the pact entering into force by the end of this year. However, it remains to be seen whether the bill will be approved during the upcoming Diet session because it is necessary for the Diet to discuss other key issues, including the TPP.

## SECURITY

### **Japan to boost ballistic missile defense**

Asahi wrote that the GOJ is considering boosting Japan's ballistic missile defense, including deploying a THAAD system, in response to the escalation of North Korea's nuclear tests and missile launches. Defense Minister Inada stated at a news conference on Tuesday that the importance of missile defense has been growing in view of recent acts by North Korea and it is necessary for Japan to hold regular discussions on what to do about it. Japan has spent a total of 1.6 trillion yen on missile defense through this fiscal year, and the spending will likely grow to 2 trillion yen in fiscal 2018. Opinion in the nation is divided about the cost effectiveness of missile defense.

### **Special SDF unit bound for Africa to be tasked with defending foreign troops**

Tuesday evening's Asahi front-paged a GSDF plan to create within an engineering brigade scheduled to depart for South Sudan on a UN peacekeeping mission in the autumn a special taskforce charged with going to the defense of foreign troops in the event that they come under attack. The 50-member "quick response force" made up of armed soldiers, medical personnel, and military police, will be equipped with "advanced combat capabilities to rush to the scene and attack and defeat the enemy," in the words of an unnamed senior GSDF official. Selected personnel will perform warfare training repeatedly before departing for the African nation.